



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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SCIRPUS HUDSONIANUS **HUDSON'S BAY BULRUSH**

Hudson's Bay Bulrush is a glabrous, grass-like perennial with clustered, 3-sided stems that are 10-40 cm high and arising from a short rhizome. Leaves are clustered near the base and have sheaths and short blades that are 5-12 mm long. Several flowers are arranged in a single, short, inflorescence on top that is 5-7 mm long and subtended by a long-tipped scale. Each flower consists of a single brown scale narrowed to a broad, blunt tip subtending 3 stamens and an ovary with 6 white bristles that greatly surpass the scale. These bristles form a silky tuft that extends 1-2 cm beyond the spikelet at maturity. The brown, 3-sided achene is ca. 1.5 mm long, slender, and has a short beak. Mature fruit in July-August.

The solitary inflorescence and tuft of long bristles make this species resemble a slender *ERIOPHORUM*, but it does not have at least 10 bristles per achene. It differs from the other species of *SCIRPUS* with solitary inflorescences in having bristles that are longer than the scale, and a 3-sided stem. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.